

FLORIDA STATE LIBRARY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

REPORT

OF THE

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

OF THE

STATE OF FLORIDA,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 1872.

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Amherst College Library

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA:

S. B. McLIN, STATE PRINTER.

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REPORT.

To His Excellency the Governor of Florida:

SIR:—In conformity to the law, I have the honor to submit the following report of the Department of Public Instruction for the year beginning October 1, 1871, and ending September 30, 1872:

During the past year many circumstances have existed unfavorable to the progress of education. The failure of the crops, the imperfect collection of revenue, the inadequacy of legislative appropriations, the excitements of the Presidential and State election, with other causes which need not be mentioned, have tended in some degree to embarrass the efforts of the friends of common schools.

It is an evidence of the inherent vitality of the system, and of the increasing hold it is gaining upon the popular mind, that in spite of these obstacles a manifest advance has been made, both in the number of schools, the aggregate of pupils, and in the number and qualifications of the teachers employed.

In my last report, the whole number of schools in the State was given as 331. The establishment of 113 additional schools raises this number to 444, an increase of more than one-third in the number of schools. The aggregate of pupils has also increased from 14,000 to 16,258. The ratio of pupils enrolled in the common schools last year was about one-fifth of the youth between 4 and 21. This year it is over one-fourth. If it is saddening to reflect that three fourths of the youth of the State are yet unreached by the educational system, it is surely encouraging to know that the ratio is so rapidly changing. A similar rate of increase, could it be secured, would in less than twenty years enroll every child in the State in the public schools.

The law provides that the census of the youth shall be taken annually by the Assessors of the several counties. An attempt was made at the last Legislature to have the time changed to once in five years. An impression seems to have prevailed extensively that this attempt was successful. Very few returns in consequence have been forwarded, and we are obliged therefore to base our calculations on the census of last year. Once in five years would seem often

enough for all practical purposes, and the change would effect a considerable reduction of expense.

The interest on the Common School Fund apportioned among the several counties the past year amounted to \$15,784.53. It is impossible to say what the warrants for this amount have realized. If 60 cents on the dollar be taken as the probable average value, the amount would be \$9,470.80. From the extremely defective character of the returns, it is impossible to state with precision the amount raised by taxation in the several counties. Including the one mill constitutional tax, the amount may be estimated at about

	\$75,000.00
Add to this private contributions about	10,000.00
Received from the Peabody Fund	7,350.00
Interest on School Fund	9,470.80

And the total amount is \$101,820.80

This divided among all the children of the State is at the rate of \$1.64 per head.

PEABODY FUND.

The aid derived from the Peabody Fund is of peculiar value, because it is so distributed as to sustain schools for about ten months in places where they become models of what good schools ought to be. The following is a list of places so benefited:

St. Augustine,	\$1,300
Tallahassee,	1,000
Gainesville,	1,000
Key West,	1,000
Monticello,	700
Pensacola,	600
Lake City,	500
Tampa,	450
Quincy,	300
Ocala,	300
Apalachicola,	200
	\$7,350

EDUCATIONAL FUNDS.

The following table has been prepared, showing the bonds constituting the main part of the Common School and Seminary Funds, the interest of which is by the Constitution and laws of the State annually apportioned among the several counties.

Statement of Bonds belonging to the School Fund in the hands of R. H. Gamble, Comptroller, March 31, 1871.

BONDS OF.	NUMBER.	AMOUNT.	BOND WHEN ISSUED.	BOND WHEN DUE.	INTEREST WHEN PAYABLE.
9-7 per cent. State of Florida.	78 to 86 inclusive.	\$9,000 00	Jan'y 1, 1857.	1st Jan'y, 1887.	Semi-Annual.
35-7 " do.	{ 211, 213, 215, 221 to } 252 inclusive, 255. }	35,000 00	do.	do.	do.
6-7 " do.	241, 390 to 394 inclusive.	6,000 00	do.	do.	do.
10-8 " do.	421 to 429 inclusive, 431.	5,000 00	Jan'y 1, 1867.	1st July, 1881.	do.
1-7 " do.	.....	29,747 63	October 23, 1867.	1st Jan'y, 1883.	do.
1-6 " do.	.....	1,000 00	June 10, 1856.	1st April, 1866.	do.
1-6 " do.	.....	5,000 00	March 29, 1856.	9th June, 1866.	do.
1-6 " do.	.....	505 00	May 10, 1856.	10th May, 1866.	do.
1-8 " do.	.....	99,500 00	Jan'y 1, 1863.	1st Jan'y, 1883.	do.
9-7 " Fla. R. R.	{ 254 to 257 inclusive, } 260, 341 to 334 inclu. }	9,000 00	Jan'y 1, 1857.	1st March, 1891.	do.
1-8 " Putnam county.	.....	3,000 00	Balance due of about \$3,500.		
1-8 " Marion county.	.....	1,000 00	Balance due of \$21.73	March 26, 1853.	
1-8 " Gadsden county.	.....	8,000 00	Matter in controversy—balance claimed as due by both the State and County.		

Statement of Bonds belonging to the Seminary Fund in the hands of R. H. Gamble, Comp., March 31, 1871.

BONDS OF.	NUMBER.	AMOUNT.	BONDS WHEN ISSUED	BOND WHEN DUE.	INTEREST WHEN PAYABLE.
1-7 per cent. Fla. R. R.	258	\$1,000 00	Jan'y 1, 1857.	1st March, 1891.	Semi-Annual.
1-6 " State of Florida.	.....	2,300 00	June 10, 1856.	10th June, 1866.	do.
1-8 " do.	430	500 00	July 1, 1861.	1st July, 1881.	do.
1-8 " do.	432	500 00	do.	do.	do.
1-7 " do.	76	1,000 00	Jan'y 1, 1857.	1st Jan'y, 1887.	do.
1-7 " do.	77	1,000 00	do.	do.	do.
1-7 " do.	216	1,000 00	do.	do.	do.
1-7 " do.	217	1,000 00	do.	do.	do.
1-7 " do.	218	1,000 00	do.	do.	do.
1-7 " do.	219	1,000 00	do.	do.	do.
1-7 " do.	220	1,000 00	do.	do.	do.
1-8 " do.	.....	60,992 45	Jan'y 1, 1863.	1st Jan'y, 1883.	do.

One Treasurer's Certificate for \$2,028.33 being amount of principal and interest on Duval county Bond for \$1,000 due March 1, 1871, paid by Treasurer of Duval county.

There are also in the office of the State Treasurer sixty-one 7 per cent. bonds of \$100 each, dated Jan'y 1, 1871, belonging to the Common School Fund, and seventy-seven of the same bonds belonging to the Seminary Fund.

SUMMARY.

COMMON SCHOOL FUND.

Principal.	
Bonds in Comptroller's office, (omitting Gadsden county,)	\$203,752 63
Bonds in Treasury,	6,100 00
Increase from fines, and sales land, less \$8,457.08 invested in bonds above mentioned in Treasurer's office,	21,933 93
Appropriation by Legislature of 1869,	50,000 00
Total,	\$281,785 56

SEMINARY FUND.

Principal.	
Bonds in Comptroller's office,	\$72,292 45
Bonds in Treasurer's office,	7,700 00
Increase from sales land, less \$9,879 invested in last mentioned bonds,	2,824 92
Total,	\$82,817 37

The following statement respecting School and Seminary lands is taken from the last annual report of the Commissioner of Lands and Immigration :

SCHOOL LANDS.

The "School Lands" in this as in several of the newer States, consist of lands granted under a general law, bestowing the sixteenth section in every township for the support of schools in that township, which inure to the benefit of the schools immediately upon the survey of such township. The precise quantity, therefore, is constantly varying, but if the number of townships now surveyed be estimated at 1,000, which is not far from the truth, and the sections are given an average area of one square mile, we have 640,000 acres as the amount of "School Lands." The exact amount is 704,692.21 acres; aggregate sales to January 1, 1872, 108,677.34 acres; balance unsold, 596,014.87.

SEMINARY LANDS.

The "Seminary Lands" consist of lands granted by the general government for the special support of two seminaries in East and West Florida respectively.

The amount thus approved to the State for seminary purposes is 85,714.08 acres.

Under existing laws, the control and disposition of the

The view of the School and Seminary Lands will therefore close with a

RECAPITULATION :

Amount of Seminary Lands, approved, acres....	85,714.08
Am't of Seminary Lands sold up to Jan'y 1, 1872..	45,942.34
Leaving an amount not disposed of, acres.....	39,771.74
Seminary Lands sold during year ending November 3, 1871, acres.....	3,358.81 for \$10,024.26
School Lands—whole amount approved, acres..	704,692.21
“ “ sold.....	108,677.34
Leaving estimated balance of.....	596,014.87
School Lands sold during year ending November 30, 1871, acres.....	5,977.78 for \$10,024.26

*To Hon. Charles Beecher, Superintendent of Public Instruction
for the State of Florida:*

This report should have been submitted in the month of September, but has been delayed by the absence and other necessary engagements of the members and officers of the board, but it is hoped will be in season to appear in your annual report to the Legislature :

Messrs. President and Directors of the Florida State Agricultural College:

lishing the Florida State Agricultural College, and agreeably to the by-laws of your honorable board, I have the honor to submit the following as an abstract of the record of the doings of the board as the same now appear on record :

On the 20th day of March, 1872, in accordance with the law establishing the Florida State Agricultural College, approved February 17, 1872, Hon. Charles Beecher, Hon. J. T. Walls, Hon. W. D. Bloxham, Hon. Robert Meacham, Hon. John Varnum, and J. S. Adams, of the corporators named in said act and constituting a majority thereof, assembled in the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in the Capitol, at Tallahassee, and perfected the organization of said corporation by electing officers as follows :

Hon. Charles Beecher was chosen President, Hon. W. D. Bloxham was chosen Vice-President, J. S. Adams was chosen Secretary and Treasurer, and J. S. Adams, John Varnum, Robert Meacham, J. T. Walls, and Peter Knowles were chosen to serve as an Executive Committee.

Messrs. Beecher, Bloxham, Meacham, and Adams were constituted a special committee, and directed to prepare and report a system of rules and regulations for the government of the Directors and officers.

The following resolution was then adopted by a unanimous vote :

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be, and they hereby are, empowered to ask for and receive the Agricultural College Scrip to which the State is entitled, and to take all proper and necessary measures to secure the same.

The directors then adjourned to meet on the 4th day of April, 1872.

On the 4th day of April, 1872, the Directors again assembled, when were present Messrs. Beecher, Bloxham, Meacham, Knowles, Walls, Varnum, and Adams.

Upon the report of the special committee the following were adopted as a system of rules and regulations for the government of the board and its officers :

I.

The Directors shall be known by the name and style of "The Board of Directors of the Florida State Agricultural College."

II.

The officers of the board shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, and an executive committee of five Directors, all of whom shall be elected by the ballots of a majority of the Directors present at any regular meeting of the Directors, and shall remain in office until removed and until their successors are chosen by a similar ballot and enter upon the discharge of their duties.

III.

The president shall preside over all meetings of the Directors at which he may be present; he shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for by these rules, or by vote; he shall call the annual meetings and all other meetings of the Directors, giving fifteen days' notice thereof, at the request of any three members; he shall vote upon all questions submitted to the determination of the Directors, and may give the casting vote in case of a tie; he shall perform all the duties and exercise the powers usually pertaining to his office, and the customary rights and duties shall attach to all the other officers of the board.

IV.

The executive committee are empowered to act for and in behalf of, and under the direction of the board between the regular meetings thereof, and are invested with all necessary authority so to do.

V.

No proxies shall be permitted to affect the transactions of business in the meetings of the board or of committees, unless such proxies shall have been appointed by the Justices of the Supreme Court, as is provided by law.

VI.

The annual meetings of the board shall be held on the first Thursdays of September in each year, and other meetings by adjournment or on call of the president with fifteen days' notice, and all meetings not otherwise provided for shall be held at the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

VII.

No removals shall be made from office in the board except after fifteen days' notice and a full hearing before the board.

VIII.

Annual and detailed reports shall be made to the Superintendent of Public Instruction by the secretary and treasurer of all the doings of the financial and other transactions of the board by the first day of September annually, thereby furnishing the Superintendent of Public Instruction with the material for the annual report required of him by law in regard to these matters.

IX.

Amendments or additions to these rules and regulations may be made at any meeting of the board regularly called, by a two-thirds vote.

X.

The following shall be the order in which the transactions of business in the board shall occur :

1. Reading and approval of records.
2. Unfinished business.
3. Reports of executive and other committees and officers.
4. New business.
5. Elections, when necessary.

XI.

In all cases not provided for in these rules, the transaction of business shall be governed by parliamentary usage.

XII.

The foregoing rules were adopted by unanimous vote.

The board then requested the Executive Committee to take prompt and effectual measures to secure the Agricultural Scrip belonging to the College Scrip, and hold the same subject to the order of the board.

The secretary was requested to solicit donations to the college as an inducement to its location.

The above abstract is respectfully submitted as probably the most satisfactory account of the proceedings of the board.

J. S. ADAMS, Secretary.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

To Hon. Charles Beecher, Superintendent of Public Instruction :

As treasurer of the Directors of the Florida State Agricultural College, I am required by law to report annually to you the financial transactions of the board.

I beg leave to state that no funds of any description having come to the charge or under the control of the Directors of the college, for its benefit, no financial report can well be made.

The expectations of the receipt of the Agricultural Scrip, entertained by the Directors at their last meeting, have been disappointed by the utter failure of all the efforts of the Executive Committee to secure any portion of the scrip belonging to the State.

Respectfully submitted,

J. S. ADAMS, Treasurer.

To the Hon. the Directors of the Florida State Agricultural College:

GENTLEMEN: Your Commissioners who were instructed to report for your consideration a plan and course of study for the Florida State Agricultural College, having given to the matter such consideration as has been practicable, beg leave to report that they are prepared to report the general plan upon which they recommend that the college shall be conducted, but are not prepared to report in detail the course of study that shall be adopted.

Whatever may be the general plan adopted, much care, labor and thought will, of necessity, be required in so framing it as to secure at once the greatest degree of conformity to the general plan adopted, and also of adaptation to the present and actual educational wants of the people of the State, and to those legitimate and proper growing necessities for moral, mental and physical culture, which may be well hoped for and expected in the future from an ambitious and improving people.

And in order to do this successfully and so determine and arrange the course of study as to insure a respectable measure of success, the assistance and constant advice of practical and professional teachers, and desirably of the teachers who will be engaged to give instruction in the course of study that will be established, in the opinion of your Commissioners, will be absolutely necessary.

We therefore recommend that the arrangement of the details of the course of study, and the determination of the time and labor that shall be given to each particular branch or topic, as well as the degree of mastery that shall be exacted, be not finally determined until teachers are employed for the new college, and thus their valuable assistance be secured in framing the course of study in whose success they will have a vital and continuing interest.

In regard to the general plan or character that should now be so permanently fixed upon the college as to determine for all time its general scope and direction, your Commissioners report:

That such general scope and character should now be given to the contemplated institution, whose foundation you, the directors, are about to establish, as will secure beyond any risk of change, such a character and administration as will give the utmost practicable conformity with the legislation of Congress and with that of the State.

First. By specially adapting the college to supply the educational necessities of the practical working classes, and better fit them for those agricultural and mechanical pursuits which, whether from choice or necessity, they will be called to follow.

Second. To accomplish this result by giving special promi-

nence and constant attention to the fundamental branches, and to those topics and branches which are of necessity closely related to and necessary for successful prosecution of an infinite variety of mechanical and agricultural labor to which the industrial classes in this State habitually apply themselves.

Third. To develop physical strength, and at the same time to train growing citizens in habits of due subordination to proper and rightful authority by placing the new college under the strict control of military discipline.

Fourth. To more perfectly adapt the institution to its special purpose and at the same time to assist effectively in promoting the economy of its management by devoting a portion of the time of teachers and pupils to the practical pursuits of agriculture, horticulture, and the mechanic arts, making it partially a manual-labor school, able by the results of the labor of its students to assist in its own maintenance as largely as possible.

Fifth. To adapt the college, in its agricultural character, to the peculiar semi-tropical character of the vegetable capacity of Florida, and thus avail ourselves to the fullest possible extent of the climatic advantages of the State.

The chairman of your committee will verbally address you on the considerations which have induced to the adoption of the conclusions reached, and your Commissioners will now close their report by presenting their results in the form of several resolutions, whose adoption they recommend, and a certified copy of the resolutions, if adopted, will furnish the best possible evidence of the sincerity and good faith of the State in accepting the grant.

WHEREAS, The State of Florida, by an act of its Legislature entitled An act ———, approved ———, 18—, did fully and formally accept the grant, by act of Congress, approved July 2, 1862, of lands in aid of the establishment of a State Agricultural College, with all its conditions and binding obligations; and whereas, by an act of the Legislature, approved February 17, 1872, the State of Florida did proceed to secure the organization of the Florida Agricultural College, and to provide for its support in full accordance with the act of Congress granting the lands; and whereas, the organization of the Florida Agricultural College was completed by the election and acceptance of the necessary directors and officers on the 20th day of March, 1872; now, therefore, in order to fix for the College such permanent general features as shall insure its present and continuing accordance with the United States and State Legislature to which it owes its origin, it is by the directors of the Florida Agricultural College

Resolved. First—That the Florida Agricultural College shall, in general as well as in all necessary particulars, specially aim to adapt its ministrations to the educational necessities of the

practical working classes by the selection of such topics for thought and branches of study for instruction therein as will most directly and most certainly fit them for industrial pursuits, whether agricultural or mechanical, which the majority of such classes, whether from choice or necessity, will be apt to follow.

Second—It shall, in order to obtain this result, give special prominence and constant attention to arithmetic, algebra, surveying, geography, natural history, English language, natural philosophy, chemistry, geology, botany, and to other similar and kindred branches which most particularly relate to and are most directly necessary in the successful prosecution of the mechanical and agricultural labors to which the industrial classes in this State habitually apply themselves, without excluding other classical and scientific branches, that in the future may become desirable.

Third—It shall be a leading aim of the College at all times to aid in the development of physical strength and symmetry, and at the same time do its part in endeavoring to train its students in habits of due subordination to proper and rightful authority, so indispensable to republican citizenship, by placing the new college under regular and steady military discipline, while instruction in military art and tactics shall be imparted to all.

Fourth—It shall be the constant purpose of directors and instructors to adapt the college to its special purposes, and likewise to provide thorough economy in its management by regularly devoting a portion of the time of teachers and scholars to the regular and practical pursuit of agriculture, horticulture, and the mechanic arts, making it in fact, to some extent, a manual-labor school, and enable it thus, from the results of its own labor, to contribute as largely as possible to its own support and maintenance.

Fifth—It shall also be a matter of special effort to adapt the college, in its agricultural and horticultural character, to the peculiar and unique semi-tropical character of the vegetable capacity of Florida, and thus inculcate among the people a strong and intelligent determination to avail themselves, as fully as possible, of the valuable climatic advantages of the State.

With the assistance and advice of the Commissioner of Agriculture, and with his co-operation, the directors shall establish an extensive nursery for the introduction and cultivation of those rare and precious tropical and semi-tropical plants and fruits that can in all the United States be only raised by open-air culture in Florida, and thus endeavor to furnish a valuable adjunct to the natural department of agriculture.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. S. ADAMS,
Committee.

Although the above resolutions have not been formally adopted by the Trustees, owing to a failure to secure a meeting in season, they undoubtedly would be unanimously approved, and may be accepted as indicating the views and principles in which they are fully agreed.

It is gratifying to be able to state that at length the obstacles to the issue of the scrip have been surmounted, and that the scrip is now in preparation, and will be immediately issued.

Respectfully submitted,

CHAS. BEECHER,
Sup't Public Instruction.

APPENDIX.

ALACHUA COUNTY.

Superintendent of Schools, Rev. S. F. Halliday, Gainesville. Whole number of Schools 23, or counting departments of Gainesville Schools 27; total enrolled pupils 1,239; whole number of days teaching as per last report 1,848; do. as per present report 2,697; gain 849 days. Received from the State \$1,125, from the county \$6,198.51, from private contributions \$1,305; whole expenditure for Schools \$6,847.49.

The East Florida Seminary is in a flourishing condition, but the report is not received in season for insertion here. We give the following letter:

GAINESVILLE, FLA., Dec. 24, 1872.

REV. CHARLES BEECHER, Superintendent Public Instruction:

SIR: The 30th September last closed the third year of our school operations in Alachua county since the organization of the public school system in Florida. Although our annual statistical report does not show a greater number of schools or a greater number of pupils taught therein than our report for the preceding year, yet there is a considerable gain in the time for which the schools have been continued and corresponding increased progress and advancement on the part of the pupils. There has perhaps been too great a desire on the part of County Superintendents and Boards of Public Instruction to multiply the number of schools. It is a question for serious consideration if the cause of education would not be better promoted by fewer schools of a higher grade and continued a greater length of time. The Trustees and General Agent of the Peabody Education Fund seem to be of this opinion, from the manner in which their appropriations are made. A school of only three months, with an interval of nine, can be of little lasting benefit, though much better than none.—From our experience of the two preceding years, at the commencement of the last year, it was thought best to proceed gradually and continually in the employment of teachers lest at the expiration of their terms we might not, from the tardiness of tax-payers, be able to pay their salaries. Besides, we found some difficulty in procuring competent teachers. We at first endeavored to enforce a high standard of qualification, but before our schools were all supplied, we were obliged to lower the standard, and the question with us was, in some instances, not is he fully competent? but is he better than none? We have, in some instances, employed teachers believing that they would improve with the progress of their pupils. We have in this county a respectable number of well qualified and successful teachers, who compare favorably with teachers in other States, but there are some who manifest very little pride in or a fondness for their profession who are deficient in that *esprit du corps* so essential to success in any profession. To remedy this evil, we need the influence of a Teacher's Institute, and we should give the preference to successful incumbents, holding out the prospect of increased pay and higher position.

In this county, our chief dependence for competent teachers is in the graduating pupils of the East Florida Seminary and the Union Academy.

UNIFORMITY OF TEXT BOOKS.

We have made considerable progress to this desirable end during the last year. The books adopted by the State Superintendent are generally in use in our schools. We have no difficulty in this respect with our colored schools, as, with them, we have neither prejudice nor conceit to encounter. They willingly adopt whatever is prescribed by authority, so that in these schools, the entire Union Series of books are used with great results. Sanders' Readers and Felters' Arithmetics, so well adapted to the different ages, capacity and advancement of the pupils. We cannot conceive of anything better adapted to the ends in view than these progressive readers and arithmetics. We have in use in four of our best schools Jeffers' Panoramic Charts, and the teachers who use them are well pleased with the success of the experiment of their use. There are still some schools that have not a uniformity of books. This is owing, in a great measure, to the prejudices of parents and guardians, who are disposed to give the preference to such books as they were accustomed to in their own school days. This want of uniformity increases the labor of the teacher and is a great obstacle in the way of his success.

SCHOOL-HOUSES.

There are in this county twenty-eight school-houses. Of these, about one-half are comfortable and convenient. The remainder need much improvement, although for the present they are made to answer the purpose. They have all been erected by the patrons, excepting Union Academy, at Gainesville, the school building at Archer, and the colored school at Newnansville, which were erected by the United States through the agency of the Freedman's Bureau. The buildings of the East Florida Seminary were erected by the Seminary Funds, and by private donation. Two of our school buildings, one at Newnansville and one at Jamestown, were erected by Masonic funds. With the exception of these and one at Waldo, the most of our school-houses are log-buildings. These school-houses would not furnish accommodation for one-half of the children and youth of this county between the ages of four and twenty-one, if they should attend, but many of them reside in remote and sparsely settled portions of the county, where it seems impossible at present to furnish them with schools. Many families have chosen their residence from other considerations than the education of their children. The Board of Public Instruction of this county have not yet expended anything in the erection of school buildings, deeming it better in the present state of the free school system to expend the entire amount of the school fund for teachers' salaries and other unavoidable expenses, requiring the people to furnish school-houses and school furniture, and they are generally willing to do so. During the last year, four additional school-houses were erected and as many more since the 30th September last.

PUBLIC SENTIMENT.

There has been a decided improvement in public sentiment on the subject of free schools in this county during the last year. That diabolical spirit that has in some portions of our country manifested itself in the burning of school-houses, and the persecution of teachers, is unknown in Alachua. All classes manifest an interest in the education of their children and in the promotion of common schools, and there are few, if any, who are opposed to the extension of their benefits alike to all classes. The interest manifested by the colored people in the cause of education is not a little remarkable when we consider how little they have hitherto experienced of its advantages. In their minds there seems to be associated *education and freedom.*

For the perpetuation of their freedom, which they so ardently desire, they very properly consider education indispensable. They therefore manifest a great willingness to build school-houses and make other sacrifices for the education of their children.

Very respectfully,

S. F. HALLIDAY,
County Superintendent.

BAKER COUNTY.

Superintendent, J. W. Howell, Sanderson. Whole number of Schools 2; enrolled pupils 45; whole amount of School assessments \$257.28. Small as this work may appear, it is double that of last year.

BRADFORD COUNTY.

Superintendent, J. R. Richard, Providence. Whole number of Schools 14; enrolled pupils 326; loss of Schools 1, of pupils 180. Received from State not reported, from county not reported; amount expended none, amount due \$1,210.

BREVARD COUNTY.

The following correspondence is given as throwing light on the condition of things in the largest county in the State, and the difficulties with which the common school system must cope in many parts of the State:

INDIAN RIVER, FLA., April 9th, 1872.

Rev. CHAS. BEECHER, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*:

DEAR SIR—Your letter of March 21st in relation to county schools, &c., reached me on the 3d of this month. In reply I beg leave to answer your interrogatories as follows:

1st. There never has been a school, within my knowledge, kept or taught in this county.

2d. I am unable to inform you as to the exact number of children between four and twenty-one years, but from the opinion of others in the way of knowing there must be between eighty and one hundred.

3d. At present I am unable to give you the names of any who would serve as a Board of Education, nor can I name a suitable person as Superintendent, but will give the matter due consideration and assist you all I can. Our county has more extent of territory than any other in the State, having a length of about one hundred miles and from sixty to one hundred in breadth, very thinly settled, so much so that we have never had a county organization, and consequently no taxes have ever been collected. I am now at work trying to get county officers appointed, and have hopes of success, so that taxes can be collected, courts opened and a better state of things take place.

I feel a deep interest in the cause of education, and trust your efforts in the good work will be a success. As soon as I can get proper persons to take the positions you desire, I will inform you.

I am, very resp'y, your obd't serv't,

JAMES PAINE, SR.

INDIAN RIVER, FLA., May 18th, 1871.

Rev. CHAS. BEECHER, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*:

SIR—Your favor of April 25th reached me by last mail, and in answer I beg leave to say that to facilitate your desire to have a school organized within the time prescribed by law, so as to secure the portion of the fund allowed to our county, and to make a beginning in the matter, I have concluded to accept the appointment of Superintendent until I can find one more competent to take charge.

At present there is no officer in our county before whom I can qualify, and I will be compelled to wait until one is appointed. I am now making the effort and think there is no doubt but a school will be in operation in a week or two. Hoping soon to report it a success,

I am, very resp'y, your obd't serv't,

JAMES PAINE, Sr.

INDIAN RIVER, FLA., July 12th, 1871.

Rev. CHAS. BEECHER, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*:

DEAR SIR—I have delayed an answer to your note of June 2d in relation to our county school, as I was anxious to make an effort and try if possible to get one organized and under way, and thereby carry out your benevolent desire. I have put myself to some trouble, feeling it important to secure the appropriation (though small) for the county, but have met with very little encouragement from our people. They seem to look upon "ignorance as bliss," and education as a waste of time. Our county is so thinly settled that it is difficult to get at the people to bring the subject properly before them, and with only one school, it would benefit but one or two families, which would cause dissatisfaction with the rest.

I have urged upon our sheriff, (who is tax assessor and collector,) in his tour through the county, to bring the matter before the people, and request them to subscribe according to their means, so as to raise a school fund independent of the aid from the State. He has promised me to do so. I regret that circumstances will compel me to give up the attempt for the present, but indulge the hope that when the county is more thickly settled I shall meet with better success.

I am, with much respect, your obd't serv't,

JAMES PAINE, Sr.

INDIAN RIVER, FLA., August 4th, 1871.

Rev. CHAS. BEECHER, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*:

DEAR SIR—Yours of July 4th, in relation to a package of school books sent to my care, with instructions, &c., reached me on the 24th, and on the 31st July I received a large box and small bundle. I have not opened the box; the bundle contained books for beginners.

I will hold them subject to your orders, as we have no school or schools to appropriate them as you have directed. I shall attend the sitting of the Legislature the coming winter, when I will see you and confer together on the subject of our county school.

I am, very resp'y, your obd't serv't,

JAMES PAINE, Sr.

CALHOUN COUNTY.

Superintendent, H. J. Yearty, Abe's Springs. Whole number of schools 7; gain 2; pupils 192; gain 92. Received from the State \$224.79, from county none, private contributions, board of teachers \$141. Expended on schools \$102.66. Due \$777.84.

CLAY COUNTY.

Superintendent, Ozias Buddington. Schools 6; gain 1; pupils 168; gain 78. Received from State \$212.65, from county 218.75, private contributions about \$419. Total expenditures for schools \$544.55.

COLUMBIA COUNTY.

Superintendent, A. H. Hutchingson, Lake City. Schools 39; gain 27; pupils 825; gain 539.

Hon. CHARLES BEECHER,

SIR: I beg leave to report that I have visited thirty schools during the year and delivered lectures to each school. Much interest is being manifested by the patrons and scholars, and the system is rapidly growing in general favor.

The unusual amount of sickness throughout the county this year prevented a full attendance of pupils.

I respectfully beg leave to submit the following extract from the General presentment of the grand jury for Columbia county at the October term of the Circuit Court, as containing matter of interest in reference to our school operations.

EXTRACT.

"On examination of the books and papers of the Board of Public Instruction and the Treasurer accounts with the sums we find accounted for with proper vouchers and amount of State school scrip coming into the hands of the Treasurer up to date: and the State and county school Tax of all the years previous to 1871 since the organization of the Board, and for \$3,277.29 of the State and county school tax for the year (1871). We also find that the board have secured titles to land for twenty-two schools—that they have established thirty-nine schools within the county, nineteen of which have been taught during the present year. This reference of the grand jury is for the year since January, 1872, eleven being taught at present, and contracts being made for the teaching of five others, and negotiations pending for securing teachers for four others.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed)

PRIMUS HARRISON,

Chairman of the Committee of Grand Jury.
Respectfully submitted,

A. J. HUTCHINGSON,

County Superintendent of Public Schools for Columbia County.

DADE COUNTY.

No report. It is believed that no schools have been maintained by the Board the past year in this county. The number of youth is small, families scattered, and, as in Brevard, the obstacles to educational progress are very great.

DUVAL COUNTY.

W. H. Christy, Superintendent, Jacksonville. Schools, 25; gain 20. Whole number of pupils not reported. The following letter will be read with interest:

Rev. CHAS. BEECHER:

DEAR SIR—In behalf of the Board of Education of the county of Duval, I have the honor and pleasure to report twenty-five Public Schools in the county in successful operation. In these are employed thirty-five teachers.

But, it is to call your attention especially to the Duval Graded High School, that I now write. This school is organized with a full corps of competent teachers. The President, Hon. J. W. Tucker, has had long experience in teaching and has been most successful in the present organization. We have now in this school one hundred and eighty pupils, and if they continue to come in as they are now daily doing, by the first week in January next, we shall have over 200 or 225 pupils. In order to remove the prejudices existing in the community against public schools, we have made special effort to get a school of high grade. It is rapidly winning the confidence of our best citizens, and many of them are sending their children, and are highly pleased with their progress. The expenses of this school are now \$400 per month. We would be glad to pay off our teachers monthly, and have paid them the first month. Our treasury is now exhausted and will likely remain empty for awhile, as the tax-collector has been delayed in making his collections by Injunction. The Injunction has now been removed. We need financial help now more than we shall need it any future time.

We wish to make this school a model school, both for the good results which may follow here, and for the influence it may have on the general cause of education throughout the State. Heretofore the cleverest of our citizens have paid their taxes grudgingly to the school fund, supposing they were only throwing away their money.

The other school, Staunton Institute, is again in successful operation, having seven teachers and nearly four hundred pupils; at present rate of increase will have 450 or 500 by middle of January. Some of our citizens are encouraging us with the promise of liberal subscriptions to enlarge the grounds and buildings of the Duval Graded High School.

Wishing you great success in your important work of superintending the cause of education throughout the State, &c.,

I remain, yours truly,

T. W. MOORE, Ch. Board P. I.

DUVAL GRADED HIGH SCHOOL—JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

Board of Public Instruction—Capt. C. B. Wilder, Mr. Samuel Sparring, Hon. J. S. Adams, Hon. J. M. Daniel, Rev. T. W. Moore, Chairman.

Corps of Instructors—J. Wofford Tucker, Principal and Professor of English Literature; Rev. L. Webb, Professor of Languages and Mathematics; Miss J. A. Tredwell, Instructor in Vocal Music and English Branches; Miss Nellie Murdoch, Assistant in English; Mrs. Julia Livingston, Assistant Preparatory Department.

The Scholastic Year embraces two Sessions—from the first of October to the first of February, and from the first of February to the first of June.

No tuition fees are charged.

The order and classification of the School are as perfect as practicable, and the work of instruction is most carefully and accurately done.

It is the design of the Board to furnish to the youth of this county the most favorable opportunity to acquire either a liberal English education, or to fit themselves for any college.

COURSE OF STUDY IN DUVAL HIGH SCHOOL.

First Year.—1st Session—Written Arithmetic, Physiology, Latin Grammar, English Grammar, English Composition, History of United States.

2d Session—Algebra, Chemistry, Latin Reader, English Grammar, Goldsmith and Composition, History of United States.

Second Year.—1st Session—Algebra, Chemistry, Caesar, Sketch Book, Irving, Composition, History of England. 2d Session—Geometry, Book-keeping, Caesar, Latin Composition, Milton and Composition, Ancient History, Ancient Geography.

Third Year.—1st Session—Trigonometry, Geology, Ovid, Latin Composition, Shakespeare and Composition, Ancient History, Ancient Geography. 2d Session—Navigation, Surveying, Zoology, Virgil, Greek or French, Rhetoric, Mental Philosophy.

Fourth Year.—1st Session—Analytical Geometry, Botany, Cicero, Anabasis or French, Logic, Moral Philosophy. 2d Session—Philosophy and Mechanics, Astronomy, Horace, Herodotus or French, Political Economy, Constitutional Law.

Music to be taught throughout the course.

ESCAMBIA COUNTY.

Superintendent, A. J. Pickard, Pensacola. Schools 16; gain 10; pupils 563; gain 339. Receipts from the State and county, not reported; private contributions \$540.—Total expenditure for schools \$4,111.58.

FRANKLIN COUNTY.

Superintendent, F. B. Wakefield, Apalachicola. No report has been received. Number of schools the previous year 2; pupils 200.

GADSDEN COUNTY.

Superintendent, Samuel Galloway D. D., Quincy. Schools 30; gain 24; pupils 1,116; gain 891. Received from State \$461.24, from county \$2,752.30. From private contribution, board of teachers, \$2,330. Total expenditure for schools \$6,083.93.

HAMILTON COUNTY.

Superintendent, Samuel McInnis, White Springs.—Schools 24; gain 19; pupils 679; gain 579. Received from State \$596.41, from county \$1,192.81. Under date of October 7, 1872 the Superintendent writes "several new and comfortable school houses are being built in the county, entirely at the expense of the citizens. At some of these localities the people, I think, contemplate giving the houses to the Board. We have no funds, nor have we had, except the small sum raised by taxation in the county. The assistance rendered by the State has done us no good. No one will receive the warrants or bonds in payment of claims against the Board. Their orders, however, have never failed to bring 100 cents on the dollar."

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HERNANDO COUNTY.

Superintendent, T. S. Coogler, Brooksville. Schools 10; gain 3; pupils 287; gain 43. Amount assessed for 1871 \$972.04—this tax was paid by the Collector into the State Treasury and the Board of Public Instruction does not appear to have received it. Total expenditures for schools \$511.12. Under date of April 25, 1872, Mr. Coogler writes:

The Board of this county has been very careful in opening schools and has limited the number to that only which our funds could warrant. We have fully paid every obligation and contract with our teachers, and all the debts to become due, we have the means of paying. All of our payments have been, and will be made, in current funds. We have received only six hundred dollars (\$600.00) of the school tax of 1871—to wit—\$300.00 of the State tax and \$300.00 of the county tax. There is yet a considerable amount due us, but owing to the expiration of the term of office of our Collector it could not be collected. This evil, I hope, will soon be remedied, and we may get the money due us in time to meet our obligations of the coming fall.

We have progressed very harmoniously and satisfactorily during the present year, and teachers, parents and pupils seem perfectly satisfied with our course of management.

We have had only four schools in operation during the past three months, but they have been well attended and ably taught. Three of them have ceased, and the fourth terminates in a few days. Owing to the fact that all of our people are poor, and during the working, or farm season, are compelled to retain their children at home to aid them in their farm work, we have permitted the majority of the patrons of each school to select the time, when they prefer the school to be taught. Hence six out of ten schools have selected the months of June, July and August, as during these months, they can send all their children. We have but one school at this place (Brooksville) and it is a colored one. It is the largest and best attended school in the county. The second term of this school has just ended, the number of scholars having been 72. And it has been taught by a Southern white lady, who has discharged her duty faithfully and well. I attended the examination of the pupils on the last day of this term, and having attended the examination of the first term, I was enabled to form a just estimate of the progress made by the colored pupils, and I am free to admit, that my former belief (having been a slave-owner) of the mental incapacity of the negro, underwent a complete change, and I am convinced that all they need is half of an opportunity, and they will develop as much mental calibre as any other race.

Any suggestion, recommendation or advice which you may be pleased to give me, will be gladly received and promptly acted upon.

Very truly yours &c.,

T. S. COOGLER,

County Superintendent of Hernando county.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY.

W. F. White, Superintendent, Tampa. Schools 14; gain 7. Pupils 436; gain 287. Received from State \$379.06; from county \$758.12; from private contributions the balance not paid by board. Total expenditure for schools \$1,125.

The cause of education in this county is believed to be in a prosperous condition.

HOLMES COUNTY.

W. W. Brown, Superintendent, Cerro Gordo. No report from this county this year or the year previous.

JACKSON COUNTY.

D. L. McKinnon, Superintendent, Marianna. Schools 18; gain 8. Pupils (estimated) 1,100; gain 200. Received from State \$735.75; from county \$2,136.67. Total expenditure for schools \$2,364.50.

The progress of the good cause of education in Jackson county is quite marked and is matter of rejoicing to all. Let all the citizens of the county take courage and redouble their efforts.

JEFFERSON COUNTY.

R. C. Loveridge, Superintendent, Monticello. Schools (estimated) 25; gain 3. Pupils about 1000; gain 100. Received from the State in Warrants \$2,600; from county, about \$2,750.

LAFAYETTE COUNTY.

W. D. Sears, Superintendent, New Troy. No report.

LEON COUNTY.

Rev. Josephus Anderson, D. D., Superintendent, Tallahassee. Schools 35; gain 4. Pupils 1,449; loss 40. Received from State \$1,501.74; from county, not reported. Total expenditure for schools \$11,767.84.

The West Florida Seminary the past year was placed under charge of the County Board, as the Tallahassee High School. Mr. Edward Aikin was employed as principal of the male, and Miss Sara Horner of the female departments, with a corps of able and experienced assistants. Under these auspices the school for a time flourished in a most gratifying manner. The closing examinations particularly in the female department passed off agreeably, reflecting credit both upon the pupils and upon their accomplished instructors.

The cause of education in this county suffered a severe loss in the accidental burning of the colored school building. This was a substantial two-story edifice, with four large rooms, amply accommodating the colored schools of the city. Since that time these schools have been inconveniently kept in churches and other buildings such as could be obtained.

It is to be hoped that the public spirit of the community will soon replace a structure so deeply needed.

LEVY COUNTY.

W. A. Shands, Superintendent, Bronson. Received from State \$224.24; from county \$162. Whole amount assessed \$1,672.20. Under date of December 16, 1872, the Superintendent writes:

I mail to you to-day, a summary, not hardly to be called an accurate report, for that would be impossible where so many negligent officers are concerned.

As you will see in the report as made by the Assessor of Taxes, and also by the Treasurer, only a very small portion of the taxes assessed have been paid to the Treasurer. You ask, why? One reason is, that there have been three incumbents of the Collector's office. Roger resigned, Leavitt was appointed, then removed, I think any way Wimberly was commissioned, then he is ordered to return his commission and Leavitt re-appointed. Wimberly refuses to give up and they have left it to the courts to decide, which is not yet decided. Also the Railroad has filed an injunction against the Collection of Taxes due for this year; therefore, the Board, I think, has wisely concluded to have no schools until the warrants of 1870 are paid and the money is in the treasurer's hands.

We are, and have been without schools this year, and will be until there is funds collected to pay teachers; for our former superintendent recklessly established schools and has got us into this dilemma. Yours,

WM. A. SHANDS, Co. Sup't. Levy county.

LIBERTY COUNTY.

Niel Black, Jr., Superintendent, Blue Creek. No report.

MADISON COUNTY.

D. Eagan, Superintendent, Madison. Schools 25; gain 14. Pupils 1153; gain 396. Received from State \$746.39; from County, \$3,150. Total expenditures for schools, including indebtedness for 1871, \$4,778.

Under date of November 14, 1871, Mr. Eagan writes:

* * * * The present scholastic year opens under more favorable auspices, and the friends of popular education are using every effort to recover lost ground, and endeavoring to get all interested in schools, so that our free school system may be considered as a permanent fixture in our State.

The white school at this place opened on the 1st inst., in charge of Mr. John Brass, a teacher of great experience and fine culture. He is assisted by Miss Moseley, a lady of good learning, and said to have been a very successful teacher. Mr. Brass informs me that the school is largely attended, and the number of scholars daily increasing. It is the intention of the Board of this County to make this a first class school and bring it up to that standing, so that we may be able to avail ourselves of the benefit of the Peabody fund so kindly offered by Dr. Sears.

The colored school here has not yet opened but will on the first Monday in December. Two Northern lady teachers have been engaged for this school. They come highly recommended from New York. This school

has made great and wonderful progress, the children manifesting great eagerness to learn. I doubt if there is a better school in the State. Probably the rapid progress made by the scholars of this school is owing to the fact that they have been favored with the best of teachers. I have also engaged another Northern lady teacher for the school at Ellaville, who will be here in a few days. I find the men who persistently opposed the introduction of free schools at first, begin to reflect and now manifest great interest in the schools, and they cheerfully co-operate and render me all assistance possible. Patrons cheerfully furnish school houses and comply with all the conditions exacted of them by the Board of Public Instruction of this county. But the houses furnished are anything but comfortable, many of them having no desks or even comfortable seats for the children. I would suggest that a plain, simple, and comprehensive manual on school houses be prepared and distributed among the people of this State.

The Board have taken the necessary steps to locate twenty schools throughout the county for the present year. This will place schools within the reach of all, excepting a few who live in the remote and sparsely settled portion of our county. Dr. Sears has donated 1000 primary school books to this county, which will be distributed gratuitously among the poor and indigent pupils of the county. Thus you see there will be no excuse for parents, &c., to have their children grow up in ignorance and poverty. Although a great deal has been done by the friends of the cause for the benefit of both classes, yet much remains to be done, and it becomes us who have seen and realized the benefits of free schools to use our most earnest efforts to make the system effectual in the State. Until this is done, our State will not be what nature intended it should be.

I am, sir, very resp'y, your obd't serv't,

D. EAGAN, *Co. Sup't.*

MANATEE COUNTY.

John F. Bartholf, Superintendent, Manatee. Schools 4; gain 1; pupils 119; gain 59. Received from State (warrants) \$153.74, from county \$788.71. Private contribution (board &c.) \$180. Under date of September 30, Mr. Bartholf writes:

Accompanying find report of school operations in this county during the past scholastic year. I regret very much that it does not present a more encouraging state of affairs, so far as the establishment of schools is concerned. Financially, matters are much improved, as unlike most of the counties in the State, we did not sacrifice the warrants we received in settlement of our apportionment of the School Fund, but held on to them, and now are benefitted by them as tax-paying scrip. This will help us out very much the coming year, as the accumulation of the fund amounts to about one thousand dollars, worth, I presume, about seven hundred in cash, and in addition, we have the taxes of this year, a balance from last, on hand, and are clear of debt, so that you perceive, financially, our prospects, our condition is good, yet still we labor under many obstacles, and chief among these is the scarcity of competent teachers and unfortunately, we cannot offer inducement sufficient to cause competent persons to come here and take charge of schools. The people are so widely scattered, and there are so many children, that we are unable to establish schools for a sufficient length of time to justify persons to incur the expense and inconvenience of travel from a distance to come and conduct them. From a careful survey that I have made, I find that twenty schools can be established in this county this winter, with an average attendance of fifteen pupils, making a total of three hundred that will be benefitted; but that is

only half the children of school age in the county. The remainder are living so remotely and in out-of-the-way places, that they cannot receive any benefit from the schools.

I am making every possible effort to put the number of schools designated in operation, but fear very much I shall not be able to obtain teachers. What we are to do, I do not know. The utmost amount of funds that we can realize will scarcely enable us to establish even *three* months' schools; (so many are needed) and even if we had the means, I doubt very much if the attendance would be sufficient to justify the expense, as people here will not send their children to school during the cropping or cow-pen season, and owing to the country being flooded with water from about the first of June until the first of October, it is extremely inconvenient for them to send during that time. In some neighborhoods, I am happy to say this is not the case, and the people show a disposition to make any sacrifice, submit to any inconvenience, in order to send their children regularly to school.

MARION COUNTY.

H. W. Lang, Superintendent, Ocala. Schools 30; loss 4; pupils 1,277; loss 223. Received from State \$478.87, from county \$6,700. Total expenditures for schools \$7,947.65.

This is one of the best counties in the State for its schools, and although the number this year is somewhat less than that last, owing to some unexplained causes, there is no diminution of zeal on the part of officers or of interest among the citizens.

MONROE COUNTY.

J. W. Locke, Superintendent, Key West. Schools 11, considered in report as 2, but equivalent to what in ordinary cases would be 11 schools; pupils 448. Received from State, bonds, \$1,799, scrip \$578, from county \$5,145. Total expenditure for schools \$5,677.27.

The only schools in the county are located at Key West. They are well graded, ably conducted, and successful.

NASSAU COUNTY.

J. C. Emerson, Superintendent, Fernandina. No report.

ORANGE COUNTY.

N. W. Prince, Superintendent, Orlando. No report.

POLK COUNTY.

W. B. Varn, Superintendent. Schools none; loss 9; pupils none; loss 252. Amount received from State, warrants, \$604, from county nothing.

PUTNAM COUNTY.

E. R. Chadwick, Superintendent, Palatka. Schools 12;

gain 4; pupils 332; gain 32. Received from State \$462.74, from county \$1,031.47. Total amount public moneys expended by Board \$1,325.18. The Superintendent writes July 11, 1871:

"There seems to be an increasing interest in schools among the people of this county, and we only lack money in order to make free schools a grand success."

"I wish, if possible, to induce our Board to erect in Palatka a good school-house, capable of accommodating 100 pupils. We have a school-house for the colored children built by the U. S. Government but none at all for white."

SANTA ROSA COUNTY.

J. A. Chaffin, Superintendent, Milton. Schools 8; gain 6; pupils 237; gain 162. Received from State nothing, from county \$608. Expenditures for schools \$600; amount paid Superintendent none; Board of Pub. Instruction none; expenses none.

ST. JOHNS COUNTY.

G. Bronson, M. D., Superintendent, St. Augustine.—Schools 9; gain 3; pupils 350; gain 50. Received from State \$246.49, (warrants); from county \$2,698.86, from private sources \$1,300.

The following letter from the Superintendent is worthy of general attention:

MY DEAR SIR:—The schools in our city are doing very well. Mr. Waterbury, Principal of the Peabody School, says his school has never been in a better condition. His opinion is confirmed by the visiting committee of the trustees of the school, who make a careful inspection of the school weekly. Mr. Waterbury's qualifications are so well known to you that it is not necessary for me to speak of them. The principal of the primary department is faithful in the discharge of her duties. The principals are aided by two competent female assistants. The discipline of the whole school will compare favorably with the best regulated schools in any part of the country.

In this connection, it may be proper to give our experience on a subject of much importance and one which has been a good deal discussed in works which are devoted to the practical matters in education. I refer to the expediency of having boys and girls taught in the same room together. There is some diversity of opinion on this subject among teachers and school trustees. I believe a majority, if not a very large number in proportion, of those who speak from actual experience would confirm our opinion that there are great advantages in the plan we have adopted of having the two sexes in the same room. I speak only of schools of moderate size, where there are not more scholars of both sexes than could be accommodated in one room. The bringing the sexes together in the school room transfers to it some of the benefits enjoyed in the family circle, where brothers and sisters exert so happy an influence on each other's character. Our children are to live together in society as men and women, and they cannot be too early trained in the exercise of that mutual deference and respect on which all higher civilization is founded. I am not

aware that anything has occurred to cause us to regret that we have brought our boys and girls together in the same room. The happy influence of our practice is very manifest.

In large towns or cities, in schools of the higher branches of education and in colleges, the question assumes another aspect. Confining our remarks to such schools as we have in this State and such as we are likely to have for some time to come, I have no doubt that the same system which so largely prevailed in New England is the best for us to adopt.

I might add that our school house and grounds are so arranged that the boys and girls have separate entrances and separate play grounds.

There have been objections made to placing boys and girls in the same room, but all that I have heard have proceeded from persons whose views on free public schools are entirely at variance with those entertained by the Board of Public Instruction.

School instruction in our county, outside of the city of St. Augustine, has many difficulties to contend against, chiefly derived from the sparseness of the population and the poverty of the people. Reasonable efforts are made by the inhabitants of the rural districts to enjoy the benefits of education. Where schools have been established, the attendance of the pupils has been as good as could be expected.

There is no building in the county outside of St. Augustine at all adapted to the purposes of a school house. I do not know of one provided with desks and seats. Until there is an increase of population, there will not probably be any substantial improvement. Another difficulty is the want of uniform books, and in some cases of a sufficient supply of books of any kind. Until the school fund is much larger than it is at present, it will be impossible to render the inhabitants of the school precincts sufficient aid to enable them to supply the deficiencies referred to. However, there appears to be a commendable desire among the people that their children should receive the benefits of an education, and where there is a will a way of some sort or other is generally found.

Yours respectfully and sincerely,

O. BRONSON.

SUMTER COUNTY.

Superintendent, A. P. Roberts, Leesburg. Schools 7; loss 1; pupils 215; gain 98. Received from State in warrants, \$247.24, from county \$543.58. Total expenditure for schools \$676.75.

SUWANNEE COUNTY.

Superintendent, M. M. Blackburn, Live Oak. Schools 9; gain 7; pupils 302; gain 211. Received from State in warrants \$300, from county \$1,568.29. Total expenditure for schools \$1,756.72.

Extract from letter of Superintendent Blackburn.

"About 33 per cent. of the school funds expended was used to pay the old Board for services before the present Board came into office. This expense will not occur again, as the new Board will draw their pay from the county funds as other county expenses are provided for. We may be mistaken, but we are confident in our own estimation that we will be able to present you with a more favorable report from this county at the end of the present year."

TAYLOR COUNTY.

Superintendent, James H. Wentworth, Shady Grove.—Schools 7; loss 3; pupils 193; loss 131. Received from State (warrants) \$130.49, sold for \$75, from county \$313.75; from private sources \$195. Total expenditure for schools \$555.40.

VOLUSIA COUNTY.

Superintendent, Champ H. Spencer, Port Orange.—Schools 10; gain 7; pupils 193; gain 114. Received from State nothing, from county nothing; from private sources \$62.50. Expenditure \$467.50.

Extract from letter of Superintendent.

The Board of County Commissioners complain that they can never get sheriff, collector and assessor of the county to a settlement. I have inserted in the report what I believe the County School Board will apportion to the various schools. One thing you will be able to gather from the number of schools in a county so scarcely populated. A healthy public opinion will soon manifest itself in looking after the school fund where citizens and all parts of the country become interested in schools. The school Board and Superintendent serve gratuitously. It is almost impossible to get anybody to pay attention to attending school board meetings and if Thayer persists in declining as school Treasurer, I know not where to look for another.

WAKULLA COUNTY.

John S. Moring, Superintendent, Crawfordville. Schools 6; loss 1; pupils 156; loss 102. Received from State, (warrants) \$721.69, from county \$424.84. Total expenditure \$1,770.

The Board have wisely determined to establish no more schools than they have funds to sustain—hence, for a time, a diminution in number of schools. It is hoped soon to bring matters upon a cash basis.

WALTON COUNTY.

Duncan G. McLeod, Superintendent, Eucheeana. No report.

WASHINGTON COUNTY.

Thomas Hannah, Superintendent, Vernon. Schools 7; pupils 195, same as previous year. Received from State in warrants \$249.24, from the county \$362.79, contributions by citizens \$433.20. Total expenditure for schools \$593.25.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, }
TALLAHASSEE, Fla., January 9, 1873. }

His Excellency O. B. Hart, Governor:

DEAR SIR: I have the honor to submit the following supplementary report:

1. Returns received since my report was given to the printers augment the number of pupils in the schools of the State to nearly one in three and a half. Last year it was one in five, the year before about one in six, of youth between four and twenty-one.

2. The appropriation by the last Legislature for this department was, "for interest of School and Seminary Fund, \$20,000." This the law requires to be apportioned among the counties, and divided between East and West Florida seminaries. Nothing was appropriated for the necessary expenses of this office—postage, stationery, travelling expenses, blanks, school registers, &c.

The law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to supply all needed blanks. The supply provided by Mr. Chase is nearly exhausted, especially school registers, which are of the greatest necessity. The Comptroller declined to issue his warrant for this purpose, hence the schools are now suffering. I have given an order to Adams, Blackmer & Lyon for registers and other necessary blanks, and they promised to supply them. Apparently, however, they will wait to see whether an appropriation is made. You are aware that travelling in Florida is somewhat expensive. An appropriation is necessary to make it possible for the Superintendent of Public Instruction to visit the several counties. The law also makes it his duty to establish a Historical Bureau and Cabinet. Means must be provided to enable him to do this. I desire to call your Excellency's attention to these important matters, without presuming to mention the sum that may be necessary. The school registers, blanks, &c., however, will cost from \$1,500 to \$2,000.

3. The officers of the department have been generally faithful. In one or two counties there has been apparent torpidity and neglect—particularly Holmes county. I can cheerfully recommend the continuance of almost all the county superintendents, and desire to mention with especial praise those of Alachua, Columbia, Gadsden, Hamilton, Hernando, Hillsborough, Jefferson, Leon, Madison, Manatee, Marion, Putnam, and St. Johns. As a large part of the white population are Conservative, and as it is important to secure their co-operation in educational movements, the principle has been, since this department was first organized by Mr. Chase, to place some Conservatives on every board, and in counties where no competent Republican could be found, to employ Conservatives, if qualified, as County Superintendent. This principle, the fundamental one of civil service reform, it is hoped, will be continued, so that this department may, as far as possible, be separate from party politics and the liabilities and mutations of party strife. In educational matters the experience of years goes to establish the importance of stability, and the harmlessness of constant official change.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES BEECHER,
Superintendent Public Instruction.

